

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A gaming device comprising:

- a game operable upon a wager by a player;
- a plurality of reels in said game;
- a plurality of symbols on said reels, said symbols including at least two wild symbols including one of the wild symbols on each of two of said reels;
- a triggering event associated with ~~the~~a generation of one or more designated symbols on the reels; and
- a processor operable after said triggering event to:
 - (a) cause a generation of a plurality of the symbols on the reels without an additional wager by the player,
 - (b) provide the player any award associated with any winning combinations of generated symbols on said reels from said generation,
 - (c) repeat (a) and (b) until one of said wild symbols is generated on one of said reels in said generation, and
 - (d) if one of said wild symbols is generated on one of said reels in said generation, locking the position of the reel with said wild symbol for a designated number of further generations of symbols on a designated number of other reels, wherein
 - (i) if a designated number of other wild symbols are generated on said reels in said designated number of further generations, unlocking the position of the reels with said wild symbol and returning to (a), and
 - (ii) if a designated number of other wild symbols are not generated on said reels in said designated number of further generations, terminating any further generations of said reels until another wager is made in the game.

Claim 2 (original): The gaming device of Claim 1, wherein each reel includes at least one wild symbol.

Claim 3 (original): The gaming device of Claim 1, wherein a plurality of different reels include a plurality of wild symbols.

Claim 4 (original): The gaming device of Claim 1, which includes a probability of generating at least one of the wild symbols on the reels associated with each of the wild symbols, wherein the probability of generating each of said wild symbols is equal.

Claim 5 (original): The gaming device of Claim 1, wherein the designated number of further generations is predetermined.

Claim 6 (original): The gaming device of Claim 1, wherein the designated number of further generations is randomly determined.

Claim 7 (original): The gaming device of Claim 1, wherein the designated number of further generations is based on the amount of the wager by the player.

Claim 8 (original): The gaming device of Claim 1, wherein the processor is operable to provide the player any award associated with any winning combinations of generated symbols on said reels from each said further generation.

Claim 9 (original): The gaming device of Claim 1, wherein if one of said wild symbols is generated on one of said reels in one of said further generations and the designated number of wild symbols has not been reached, said reel is locked, and the remaining designated number of further generations of symbols occurs on at least one of the reels with at least one wild symbol.

Claim 10 (original): The gaming device of Claim 1, wherein each reel that generates one of said wild symbols is locked for said subsequent further generations of symbols until the designated number of other wild symbols are generated on said reels or said designated number of other wild symbols are not generated on said reels in said designated number of further generations.

Claim 11 (original): The gaming device of Claim 1, wherein the designated number of other wild symbols is at least two other wild symbols generated on said reels in said designated number of further generations.

Claim 12 (original): The gaming device of Claim 1, wherein the designated number of other reels is less than total number of said plurality of reels.

Claim 13 (original): The gaming device of Claim 1, wherein the designated number of other reels is at least two other of said plurality of reels.

Claim 14 (original): The gaming device of Claim 1, which is controlled through a through a data network.

Claim 15 (original): The gaming device method of Claim 14, wherein the data network is an internet.

Claim 16 (currently amended): A gaming device comprising:

- a game operable upon a wager by a player;
- a plurality of reels in said game;
- a plurality of symbols on said reels, said symbols including at least two designated symbols including one of the designated symbols on each of two of said reels;
- a triggering event associated with ~~the~~a generation of one or more designated symbols on the reels; and
- a processor operable upon said triggering event to:
 - (a) cause a generation of a plurality of the symbols on the reels without an additional wager by the player,
 - (b) provide the player any award associated with any winning combinations of generated symbols on said reels from said generation, and
 - (c) repeat (a) and (b) until one of said designated symbols is generated on one of said reels in said generation,
 - (d) if one of said designated symbols is generated on one of said reels in said generation, locking the position of the reel with said designated symbol for a designated number of further generations of symbols on a designated number of other reels, wherein
 - (i) if a designated number of other designated symbols are generated on said reels in said designated number of further generations, unlocking the position of the reels with said designated symbol and returning to (a), and
 - (ii) if a designated number of other wild symbols are not generated on said reels in said designated number of further generations, terminating any further generations of said reels until another wager is made in the game.

Claim 17 (original): The gaming device of Claim 16, wherein each reel includes at least one designated symbol.

Claim 18 (original): The gaming device of Claim 16, wherein a plurality of different reels include a plurality of designate symbols.

Claim 19 (original): The gaming device of Claim 16, which includes a probability of generating at least one of the designated symbols on the reels associated with each of the designated symbols, wherein the probability of generating each of said designated symbols is equal.

Claim 20 (original): The gaming device of Claim 16, wherein the designated number of further generations is predetermined.

Claim 21 (original): The gaming device of Claim 16, wherein the designated number of further generations is randomly determined.

Claim 22 (original): The gaming device of Claim 16, wherein the designated number of further generations is based on the wager by the player.

Claim 23 (original): The gaming device of Claim 16, wherein the processor is operable to provide the player any award associated with any winning combinations of generated symbols on said reels from each said further generation.

Claim 24 (original): The gaming device of Claim 16, wherein if one of said designated symbols is generated on one of said reels in one of said further generations and the designated number of wild symbols has not been reached, said reel is locked, and the remaining designated number of further generations of symbols occurs on at least one of the reels with at least one designated symbol.

Claim 25 (original): The gaming device of Claim 16, wherein each reel that generates one of said designated symbols is locked for said subsequent further generations of symbols until the designated number of other designated symbols are generated on said reels or said designated number of other designated symbols are not generated on said reels in said designated number of further generations.

Claim 26 (original): The gaming device of Claim 16, wherein the designated number of other designated symbols is at least two other designated symbols generated on said reels in said designated number of further generations.

Claim 27 (original): The gaming device of Claim 16, wherein the designated number of other reels is less than total number of said plurality of reels.

Claim 28 (original): The gaming device of Claim 16, wherein the designated number of other reels is at least two other of said plurality of reels.

Claim 29 (original): The gaming device of Claim 16, which is controlled through a through a data network.

Claim 30 (original): The gaming device of Claim 29, wherein the data network is an internet.

Claim 31 (currently amended): A gaming device comprising:

- a game operable upon a wager by a player;
- a plurality of reels in said game;
- a plurality of symbols on said reels, said symbols including at least two designated symbols including one of the designated symbols on each of two of said reels;
- a triggering event associated with ~~the~~a generation of one or more designated symbols on the reels; and
- a processor operable upon said triggering event to:
 - (a) cause a generation of a plurality of the symbols on the reels without an additional wager by the player,
 - (b) provide the player any award associated with any winning combinations of generated symbols on said reels from said generation,
 - (c) repeat (a) and (b) until one of said designated symbols is generated on one of said reels in said generation, and
 - (d) if one of said designated symbols is generated on one of said reels in said generation, locking the position of the reel with said designated symbol for a designated number of further generations of symbols on a designated number of other reels, wherein
 - (i) if a designated number of other designated symbols are generated on said reels in said designated number of further generations, unlocking the position of the reels with said designated symbol and returning to (a),
 - (ii) if a designated number of other wild symbols are not generated on said reels in said designated number of further generations, terminating any further generations of said reels until another wager is made in the game,
 - (iii) wherein each reel that generates one of said designated symbols is locked for any subsequent further generations of symbols until the designated number of other designated symbols are generated on said reels or said designated number of other designated symbols are not generated on said reels in said designated number of further generations, and

(iv) the player is provided any award associated with any winning combinations of generated symbols on said reels from each said further generation.

Claim 32 (original): The gaming device of Claim 31, wherein the designated number of other reels is less than total number of said plurality of reels.

Claim 33 (original): The gaming device of Claim 31, which is controlled through a through a data network.

Claim 34 (original): The gaming device of Claim 33, wherein the data network is an internet.

Claims 35 to 40 (canceled).